IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3 at line 24 as follows:

--More preferably, the second coating layer is formed of two or more coating sublayers.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5 at line 6 as follows:

--More preferably, an inner layer and an outer layer are serially provided as the sublayers of the second coating layer on an outer peripheral surface of the optical fiber in a direction in which the layers are away from the optical fiber. Further, the inner layer is derived by adding 100 to 250 weight parts of metal hydroxide and less than 100 weight parts of a nitrogen-based flame retardant material to 100 weight parts of polystyrene-based thermoplastic polymer, polyolefin-based thermoplastic polymer, or polyphenylene ether polymer, or a mixed polymer of these materials.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5 at line 16 as follows:

--More preferably, an inner layer and an outer layer are serially provided as the sublayers of the second coating layer on an outer peripheral surface of the optical fiber in a direction in which the layers are away from the optical fiber. Further, the outer layer is derived by adding 100 to 250 weight parts of metal hydroxide and less than 100 weight parts of a nitrogen-based flame retardant material to 100 weight parts of polystyrene-based thermoplastic polymer, polyolefin-based thermoplastic polymer, or polyphenylene ether polymer, or a mixed polymer of these materials.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 49 at line 24 and bridging page 50 as follows:

--The resin layers are removed from a part of the buffered optical fiber, which has a length of 30 mm from a terminal of the buffered optical fiber, by using a "coating remover JR-

22" ("JR-22" is the trade name of the coating remover manufactured by Sumitomo Electric Industries, Ltd.) corresponding to the coating removing tool shown in FIG. 7. Incidentally, the case in which no ultraviolet curable resin layer is present in the separated resin layer is defined as "L_{uv}/L_{SH}=0%". The case in which the length in the drawing-out direction of the ultraviolet curable resin layer is equal to that in the drawing-out direction of the resin coating layer is defined as "L_{uv}/L_{SH}=100%". Incidentally, the drawing-out force (kgf) is measured by setting a drawing-out rate at 500 mm/minute. The drawing-out force of the buffered optical fiber of each of the Examples 4-1 and 4-2 is equal to or less than 2.5 kgf.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 19 at line 10 as follows:

--In the buffered optical fiber 10 according to this embodiment, the second coating layer 16 may have either a form in which the second coating layer 16 is constituted by a single coating layer, or a form in which the second coating layer 16 consists of two or more coating sublayers. FIG. 3(A) shows a schematic cross-sectional view of the buffered optical fiber 50 in which the second coating layer comprises two or more coating sublayers.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 19 at line 18 and bridging page 20 as follows:

--As shown in FIG. 3(A), in the buffered optical fiber 50 according to the embodiment of the invention, an inner layer 54 and an outer layer 55 are serially provided as the sublayers of the second coating layer 56 on an outer peripheral surface of the optical fiber 53, which is provided with the first coating layer 52 on the outer periphery of the glass fiber 51, in the direction in which the layers are away from the glass fiber 51. Incidentally, as shown in a schematic cross-sectional view in FIG. 3B, the first coating layer 52 is provided with the first ultraviolet curable resin layer 52A, the second ultraviolet curable resin layer 52B, and the colored layer 52C serially arranged in a direction in which these layers are away from the glass fiber 51.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 20 at line 12 and bridging page 21 as follows:

--Preferably, in the ~~coated glass fiber core~~ buffered optical fiber 50 according to the embodiment of this invention, the Young's modulus of the inner layer 54 is 1 MPa to 100 MPa (more preferably, 5 MPa to 50 MPa). Preferably, in the ~~coated glass fiber core~~ buffered optical fiber 50 according to the embodiment of this invention, the Young's modulus of the outer layer 55 is 200 MPa to 1500 MPa (more preferably, 250 MPa to 1000 MPa). Preferably, the outside diameter (Dp) of a concentric part including up to the inner layer 54 is 0.3 mmϕ to 0.7 mmϕ (more preferably, 0.35 mmϕ to 0.60mmϕ). Preferably, the outside diameter (Ds) of the concentric part including up to the outer layer 55 is 0.75 mmϕ to 1.0 mmϕ (more preferably, 0.85 mmϕ to 0.95mmϕ). Incidentally, the Young's moduli of the inner layer 54 and the outer layer 55 are preferably adjusted according to the kinds and the additions of compounds constituting the inner layer 54 and the outer layer 55.--

Please replace Table 1 on page 40 with the following amended table:

TABLE 1: High Flame Retardancy 0.9 mmϕ Buffered Optical Fiber

Second Resin Composition		Example 1	Example 2-1	Example 2-2	Example 2-3	Example 3-1	Example 3-2	Comparative Example 1	Comparative Example 2
Base Polymer (Weight Parts)	①PPE (poly-Phenylene ether polymer)								
	②PS (poly-styrene)-based Elastomer I	35	40	40	40	35	35	35	35
	③PS-based Elastomer II	65	60	60	60		30	65	65
	④PS-based Elastomer III					65	35		
	⑤ PS-based Elastomer IV								

	⑥PS-based Elastomer V								
	⑦PS-based Elastomer VI								
Crosslinking Material									
Addition of Metal Hydroxide		200	200	250	150	180	150	200	200
Silicon-based Lubricant		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
N-(Nitrogen)based Flame Retardant Material		10	25	25	25	100	25	5	120
Buffered optical fiber Physical Property									
Linear Expansion Coefficient ($\times 10^{-4}$) [1/K]		1.3	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2
Young's Modulus [MPa]		275	250	270	235	280	270	270	290
Optical fiber Characteristics									
Residual thermal		120	115	100	140	105	110	135	90

Distortion (120°C×168hr) [μm/m]								
Optical Transmission Loss Characteristics (Room Temperature) [dB/km]	0.197	0.197	0.204	0.205	0.198	0.194	0.205	0.202
Temperature Change Resistance Property Δα (-40 - 85°C) [dB/km]	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.08	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.04
Amount of Protrusion (μm/m)	80	80	65	90			100	60
Appearance	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	×
Flame Retardancy (UL1581 Burning Test)	○	○	○	○	○	○	×	○

Please replace Table 2 on page 44 with the following amended table:

TABLE 2: High Flame Retardancy 0.9 mmϕ Buffered Optical Fiber

Second Resin Composition	Example 4-1		Example 4-2	
	Inner Layer	Outer Layer	Inner Layer	Outer Layer
Base Polymer (Weight Parts)				
①PPE (poly-phenylene ether polymer)	20	80	25	85
②PS(poly-styrene)-based Elastomer I				
③PS-based Elastomer II				
④PS-based Elastomer III	79			
⑤PS-based Elastomer IV			74	
⑥PS-based Elastomer V		20		
⑦PS-based Elastomer VI				15
Crosslinking Material	1		1	
Addition of Metal Hydroxide	240	240	250	150

Silicon-based Lubricant	2		2	
N-based Flame Retardant Material	30	30	20	30
Buffered optical fiber Physical Property				
Linear Expansion Coefficient ($\times 10^{-4}$) [1/K]	1.8	1.1	1.7	1.2
Young's Modulus [MPa]	120	850	150	700
Optical fiber Characteristics				
Residual thermal Distortion (120°C×168hr) [μm/m]	150	150	145	145
Optical Transmission Loss Characteristics (Room Temperature) [dB/km]	0.195		0.186	
Temperature Change Resistance Property $\Delta\alpha$ (-40 - 85°C) [dB/km]	0.06		0.06	
Amount of Protrusion (μm/m)	-	-	-	-
Appearance	○	○	○	○
Flame Retardancy (UL1581 Burning Test)	○	○	○	○
L_{uv}/L_{SH} (%)	80		85	